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 DE RUEHML #8863 3342127
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 Z 302126Z NOV 89 ZFF-4
 FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 5036
 INFO RUHQHQA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
 RUHJWYA/13THAF CLARK AB RP
 RUHGSJA/USCINCPACREP PHILIPPINES SUBIC BAY RP
 RUMJCB/AMCONSUL CEBU 6296
 BT

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 BRIEFERS
 TIME

301715

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ MANILA 38863

CINCPAC ALSO FOR FPA

E.D. 12356: DECL:OADR
 TAGS: PGOV, PINS, RP
 SUBJ: REPORTED COUP ATTEMPT: SITREP NO. 1

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. AT APPROXIMATELY 0130H, MANILA TIME, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, FIGHTING BROKE OUT AT VILLAMOR AIR FORCE BASE, ADJACENT TO THE NINYOY AGUIÑO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, BETWEEN REBEL PHILIPPINE MILITARY FORCES, REPORTEDLY COMPOSED PRIMARILY OF PHILIPPINE MARINES, AND ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP) FORCES LOYAL TO THE GOVERNMENT.

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3. AS OF 0500, LATEST AVAILABLE INFORMATION IS AS FOLLOWS: THE FOURTH PHILIPPINE MARINE BATTALION AND THE PHILIPPINE MARINE G-3 (DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS BG GOHO) ARE APPARENTLY A KEY ELEMENT OF THE REBEL FORCES. A PHILIPPINE SCOUT RANGER REGIMENT HAS ALSO REPORTEDLY JOINED THE REBEL UNITS. REBEL MARINE ELEMENTS HAVE SURROUNDED VILLAMOR AIR FORCE BASE AND SEIZED THE FIRST AND SECOND FLOORS OF THE HEADQUARTERS BUILDING. REBEL TROOPS HAVE ALSO REPORTEDLY ENTERED THE PHILIPPINE NAVY BASE AT SANGLEY POINT AND MAY HAVE SEIZED CONTROL. REBEL SCOUT RANGER ELEMENTS, INCLUDING HEADQUARTERS STAFF, HAVE OCCUPIED THE CENTER OF FORT BONIFACIO, HEADQUARTERS OF THE PHILIPPINE ARMY, ALONG WITH SOME REBEL MARINES. NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION DEFENSE COMMAND COMMANDER UNDER GENERAL BIAZON HAS SUPPOSEDLY RETAKEN CHANNEL 4 FROM REBEL ELEMENTS WHO HAD EARLIER OCCUPIED THE TV STATION. FINALLY, THERE IS AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT REBEL FORCES ARE MAKING A MOVE TO OCCUPY THE PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE INSTALLATIONS IN MACTAN, CEBU, AND IN DAVAO.

4. BOTH SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FIDEL RAMOS AND AFP CHIEF OF STAFF RENATO DE VILLA HAVE STATED ON THE RADIO THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS SENDING REINFORCEMENTS TO SECURE VILLAMOR. HOWEVER, RAMOS HAS TOLD AMBASSADOR PLATT PRIVATELY THAT THIS COULD BE A DRAWN OUT AFFAIR AS HE DOES NOT YET HAVE ADEQUATE TROOPS IN MANILA TO CONFRONT THE REBELS. HE SAID THAT HE IS PLANNING THE TROOPS TO BE BROUGHT BACK TO MANILA FROM THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH BY DAYBREAK AND HAS SAID THAT HE MAY NEED TO USE CLARK AIR BASE FOR C-130 LANDINGS.

5. MALACANANG EXECUTIVE SECRETARY CATALINO MACARAIG HAS INFORMED US THAT THE PALACE IS SECURE AND THAT PRESIDENT AQUINO MADE A STATEMENT ON NATIONAL TV AT APPROXIMATELY 0430 THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS THE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL AND ASKING PEOPLE TO REMAIN CALM. AMBASSADOR HAS ASSURED MACARAIG, FOREIGN SECRETARY MANGLAPUS, AND SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE MITRA THAT THE U.S. IS SOLIDLY BEHIND PRESIDENT AQUINO AND HER GOVERNMENT. CARDINAL SIN HAS ALSO MADE A STRONG APPEAL FOR POPULAR SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT.

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6.. EMBASSY HAS ADVISED STAFF TO STAY HOME AND IS
ACTIVATING WARDEN ALERT SYSTEM TO URGE AMERICAN CITIZENS
TO DO LIKEWISE.

7. STRONG PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT OF SUPPORT NEEDED
SOONEST. PLATT

END OF MESSAGE

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